The English Township. Gentleman's Magazine.

If the proverbial "man of the

street" were asked it he knew where Ditmarsh is, he would probably reply "In England. Its name has certainly an English sound, and well it may, for Ditmarsh is the cradle of our race, the old Saxony from which our forefathers set out in order to found new homes in Britain. Ditmarsh comprises the strip of country situated between the mouths of the rivers Elbe and Eider. An old map of Neocorus shows that the physical aspect of the shore line has greatly altered even in recent times. In the fitteenth century a great island of sand lay off the coast, and diverted the main stream of the Elbe so that it flowed northward and mingled its waters with those of the Eider. It is said that the language spoken in Ditmarsh three centuries ago closely resembled the early English tongue, and this assertion is borne out by the occurrence in the dialect of such phrases as, "flo und ebb," "sink oder swim," and "quit und frie," which no Englishman could fail to understand. Both languages in fact belonged to the "Low Dutch" group which formerly prevailed along the northern shores of the continent, from Denmark to Picardy, and formed an intermediate link be tween the Scandinavian spoken in Norway and Sweden, and the "High Dutch" of the interior of Germany. King Waldemar's Erdbuch or census, which dates from the thirteenth century, contains names of localities in the Ditmarsh:-Ruye, Stening, Ore, Worthing, Hethe, Rumsæ, Swan-sæ, Grumby and Withby, which have long since been transferred to places on the British shores. At any rate they had counterparts in Rye, Steyning, Worthing, Hythe, Ore and Romsey on the south, Swansea on the west and Grimsby and Whitby on the east coast; and a list of families resident in Dit-marsh during the hiteenth cen-

Up to the fifteenth century the people of Ditmarsh contrived to preserve their identity and independence, and each parish formed a self-contained and self-governed agricultural community, and elected from the most influential of its "gudemen" or landowners certain officers called the "Sixteens," who administered justice, and from whose decision an appeal lay only to the assembly of the whole parish. The Sixteens also regulate the cultivation of the "feldmark," or land belonging to the community, superintended the division by lot of the common babies. The only danger appeared field and common pasture, proto lie in the extraordinary fashion in which people skate. Form, such vided a common bull for breeding cattle, and appointed subordinate officials to attend to the gates and hedges. (Ibid. 382.) The standard of land measure in Ditmarsh until the thirteenth century was the jordh or "yardland." Now if we turn to our own

country, we shall find a most

tury exhibits many surnames

Bute, Butteler, Evers, Greeve,

Hartman, Hemming, Harder, Hel-

man, Jerriman, Portman, Suwell

and

Wilder. ("Archæologia,"

identical with our own, such as

striking example of how this same home rule was imported by foreign invaders from the banks of the Elbe to those of the Thames, and in spite of a millennium and a half still preserved some of its original features. The manor of Aston and Cote, in the parish of Bamp-ton-in-the-Bush, Oxfordshire, possessed a custom which, at the date of its inclosure in 1853, was thought to be unique, though there is reason to suppose that a similar one prevailed at an earlier period in neighboring manors. All the inhabitants met, on the eve of Ladyday, at the town cross of Aston, and there elected a representative from every hide of land to serve as "Sixteens" during the ensuing year. These Sixteens (the term it will be oberved is identical with that formerly used in Ditmarsh) formed a court which exercised a jurisdiction quite independent of the lord of the manor and his steward in all matters relating to the internal arrangements of the manor. They made orders, amer-Led suitors for non appearance, set penalties, made presentments, and their orders, if proclaimed from the town cross, were binding on all the inhabitants. Like the Sixteens of Ditmarsh, they made an annual allotment of the common fields and meadows, and appointed four "grass stewards," whose duty it was to see that bulls were provided for the common use, and that gates and hedges were kept in good repair. ("Archæologia,"

33, 274.) \* \* \* \* Many of our municipal boroughs are mere developments of the English township. The Saxon word burh or burcg meant originally the fortified house and courtyard of the nobleman, and came to be applied to the town which grew up around it-a community which held its own burkgemet or borough assembly under the presidency of its own reeve. The borough was, in fact, a more strictly organized township. (Stubbs's "Const. Hist.") Only a generation ago Marlborough had its own common arable field. The allotments were divided by broad "lanchets" or strips of meadow, and were subject to common pasture during the autumn, while a continuous right of common pasture existed over "The Thorns." (Waylen, "Hist. Marlboro'.") Old records show that other boroughs observed a mode of cultivating the municipal lands similar to that formerly in use among the rural townships. The commoners of Malmesbury, who possessed rights of common over 'King's Heath''-a grant of land conferred upon them, according to the ancient tradition, by King Athelstan-were divided into six "hundreds" or "tribes." Above them ranked certain privileged We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of deafness (caused by catarrh) that cannot be cured by Hall's bodies, styled respectively the "Forty-eights," the Twentyfours," and the "Thirteens," who all had their respective shares in the land belonging to the community. The constitution of Ditmarsh Sold by Druggists, 75c.

Comprised analogous bodies of Hall's Family Pills are the best.

forty-eight and twenty-four mem- | OUIS BERGDOLL BREWbers. ("Archæologia," 27, 377.) The open field system of cultivation was not peculiar to the Saxons,

and continues to exist locally on both continents. Neither was the

organized village community a

distinctive Saxon institution. But

the English township was essen-

tially so. In it were developed

and matured the first principles of

our popular and representative local government. But the system

has had its day and served its end.

Society has quite outgrown this narrow chrysalis in which it was

enveloped, and those enthusiasts

who desire to confer larger powers

upon our local councils, or to re-

vive the now effete class of small landed proprietors, are only en-

deavoring to put back the hands

An Evening On Dutch Skates

Badminton Magazine.

trip with Dutch skates on the canals of the town. \* \* \* \*

Having reached the canal we step-

ped down a wooden plank on to

the ice, where a friendly Dutchman

fixed our skates. Fixed? Loosely

bound them on would be a more

appropriate expression; but as he

assured us that was quite enough

we proceeded on our way. It is

very easy indeed to skate on Dutch

blades, and we sped quite happily. What a delightful scene met our

eyes! The funny old flat-bottomed

barges frozen to the sides of the

canal, the gay colored articles of

washing hanging out to dry in the

frosty night air, the old women

with baskets of bright skinned

oranges, and those delicious

shades of red and brown that seem

to pervade everything in Holland.

for some one on the bridge was

throwing pennies for them to

scramble for, and a tremendous

scuffle was going on, in spite of the

lads being on skates instead of

their own feet. We almost won-

dered that the turn-up toes of the

skates did not upset them; but

they seemed to take to the blade

as the duck takes to the water, and

the other shrieking young rascals followed behind. What a helter-

skelter crowd it was! No one

seemed to tumble down, partly

as we know it, is an unheard of art,

as everyone tries to tear along as

their arms going like windwills.

It is not a graceful style of per-

tormance, but it serves the pur-

pose, and the ice on which they

skate practically prohibits outside

edge and suchlike artistic perform-

ances. We were quite alarmed by

and unexpected blow from a whirl-

hired a chair, and sat down free

from the hustling of the seething

crowd, in order quietly to regain

our breath, and quietly contem-

plate the passers-by. That they enjoyed themselves there is no

doubt, for never did youth seem

Suddenly, from under the bridge

in the dim light, we saw a long,

black, dark, moving mass emerge:

it might be a walrus or a whale; it

might be the great sea serpent it-

self, as it swayed from side to side,

skidding over the ice at frantic

speed. It was only a party of stu-

dents out on a pleasure tour.

Among them they had a long skat-

ing pole, and having singled out

the best performer, and put him in

front, all his companions held on

to the pole, one behind the other,

until the whole dozen were ar-

ranged like onions on a stick, when

away they wildly flaw, their feet

moving in unison as the great black

mass tore from canal to canal, or

rushed madly under and out of

lands in winter. Had all those peo-

ple been skating abreast each

would have had to contend with

the blast. As matters were, the

first one only had to withstand the

piercing wind, the others shelter-

ing behind him and each other.

As the lead is, therefore, more anx-

ious and tiring, members compos-

ing the party change now and

tious, and we telt we should like to

tollow this queer crowd. So up

we got and started behind them;

but they soon distanced us, for,

not being particularly good skaters

at any time, the novelty of Dutch

blades made us somewhat less pro-

ficient than usual, and, in a few

moments, the pole and its adher-

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the inflammation can be taken out and

this tube can be restored to its normal

condition, hearing will be destroyed

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y catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous sur-

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ents were far, far away.

more gay.

quickly as he or she possibly can,

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We had arranged to skate from

of the clock of progress

JOHN JOS. ALTER, President GEORGE RIEGER, Sec'y and Treas CHAS, F. SCHOENING, Gen. Man. or even to the nations of the North. It was the primitive form of agriculture, which was once widely prevalent both in Europe and Asia,

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from the fact that the Dutch learn CHARLES CLASS to go on blades when they are

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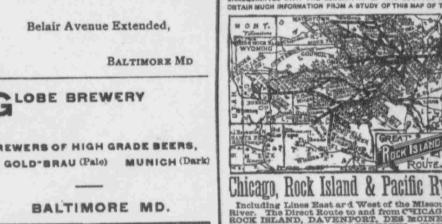
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